advanced countries, and a weakening of consumer confidence. It may also have impact on international travel. These factors in turn may affect orders for software development and exports of Indian software companies.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, the Government is seized of the situation. Government is also in constant touch with National Association of Software Services and Companies (NASSCOM) and Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC), and shall extend all the help they require.

Mobile telephone services in NER

2970. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for inordinate delay in installation of Mobile telephone services including cellular and WLL in the NER except Guwahati and Shillong;

(b) the places for which survey work has been completed and the mobile exchange equipments have been purchased;

(c) whether Government propose to make Assam Telecom Circle to be the nodal agency for the same;

(d) if so, by when;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the target set for completion thereof; and

(f) implementation status of the proposal for making Guwahati an internet gateway and target fixed for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, fresh start or expansion of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service and WLL Phones with limited mobility was not permitted earlier in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East Region on security considerations. The same has now been permitted and Operators have accordingly been informed by the Government on 21.08.2002.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) Assam and North-East Telecom Circles being independent licensing areas, will oversee the roll-out in the respective areas of their jurisdiction in the case of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). The roll-out is expected to be done progressively from August, 2003 onwards by BSNL.

(f) The Government Operator *viz.*, BSNL has no proposal to install a separate Internet Gateway at Guwahati; their Guwahati Internet Node is connected to National Internet Backbone (NIB) like any other major Internet Node and NIB is connected to Internet Gateway located at six places, *viz.*, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore and Pune. However, one Internet Service Licensee private company has proposed setting up of their Internet Gateway at Guwahati using a satellite medium.

Dishonour of TRAI's decision by private cellular operators

2971. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI is now expected to draw up the rules of the game within the parameters of the National Telecom Policy, 1999, whereas the decisions on the operational matters were earlier taken by the Ministry supplanting the TRAI by political executive; if so, the Government's view;

(b) whether the private cellular operators have recently refused to honour the decisions and instructions of the TRAI; and

(c) if so, what is Government's approach in this regard?